

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

In re Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation
Case No. CV96-4849

Certified Denial

to Claimant Itzhak (Tamas) Shelah
represented by Shulamit Elsam¹

in re Account of Paul Schneider

Claim Number: 003451/AH²

This Certified Denial is based on the claim of Itzhak (Tamas) Shelah (the “Claimant”) to an account of Pal (Paul) Schneider. The CRT did not locate an account belonging to Pal Schneider in the Account History Database prepared pursuant to the investigation of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP” or “ICEP Investigation”), which identified accounts probably or possibly belonging to Victims of Nazi Persecution, as defined in the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the “Rules”). This Denial is to the published account of Paul Schneider (the “Account Owner”) at the Zurich branch of the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

All denials are published. Where a claimant has not requested confidentiality, as in this case, only the name of the bank has been redacted.

Information Provided by the Claimant

The Claimant submitted a Claim Form asserting that his father, Pal (Paul) Schneider, who was born on 1 April 1895 in Salgotarjan, Hungary, was married to Rozalia Schöffner on 25 May 1921 in Salgotarjan, owned a Swiss bank account. The Claimant indicated that his parents had two children, the Claimant and Martha Szentivanyi, née Schneider, both born in Budapest, Hungary. The Claimant indicated that his parents resided at Csaky u. 63, Budapest. The Claimant indicated that his father, who was Jewish, was an employee of an international bank in Budapest, and deposited money and a gold coin collection in Switzerland. The Claimant stated that in May 1944, his father was fired because he was Jewish, and that in October 1944, the Claimant and his mother and sister were sent to a slave labor camp and his father was sent to Theresienstadt, where he perished on 4 May 1945. The Claimant indicated that his mother died in Budapest on

¹ The Claimant provided his name and some of his relatives’ names only in Hebrew characters in the Claim Form. For the purpose of this written decision, the CRT has transliterated these names into Latin characters. However, to match names provided in the Claim Form with names contained in the banks’ databases, the CRT has used a database created by Yad Vashem, Israel, which provided different variations in Latin characters for each of the names.

² The Claimant submitted four Initial Questionnaires with the Court in 1999 and a Claim Form to the CRT. The CRT is treating the Initial Questionnaires and the Claim Form under the consolidated Claim Number 003451.

23 November 1977, and his sister died on 31 December 1996, also in Budapest. The Claimant indicated that he was born on 2 May 1930 in Budapest.

The Claimant previously submitted four Initial Questionnaires with the Court in 1999, asserting his entitlement to Swiss bank accounts owned by his father, mother, and sister, which were deposited by his father.

The Claimant submitted documents in support of his application, including: (1) the Claimant's birth certificate; (2) the Claimant's father's birth and marriage certificates; and (3) a certificate issued in Theresienstadt indicating that the Claimant's father died in Theresienstadt on 4 May 1945, all of which indicate the Claimant's father's name and his addresses in Hungary.

Information Available in the Bank's Records

The CRT notes that the Claimant submitted a claim to an account belonging to his relative, Pal (also spelled as Paul) Schneider. The auditors who carried out the ICEP Investigation reported one account whose owner's name matches to that provided by the Claimant. The account is identified below by its Account Identification Number, which is a number assigned to the account by the ICEP auditors for tracking purposes.

Account 4021719

The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owner was Paul Schneider, who resided in Germany. Furthermore, the Bank's records indicate the date of closing of the account at issue.

The CRT's Analysis

Admissibility of the Claim

The CRT has determined that the claim is admissible according to Article 18 of the Rules.

Identification of the Account Owner

The CRT concludes that the Claimant has not identified the Account Owner as his relative. Although the name of his father matches to the published name of the Account Owner, the information provided by the Claimant differs materially from the published information about the Account Owner available in the Bank's records. Specifically, the Claimant stated that his father was born and married in Hungary, where he resided and worked all his life and where his children were born. In contrast, the Bank's records show that the Account Owner resided in Germany. Consequently, the CRT is unable to conclude that the Account Owner and the Claimant's father are the same person.

Right of Appeal

Pursuant to Article 30 of the Rules, the Claimant may appeal this Denial to the Court through the Special Masters within ninety (90) days of the date of the letter accompanying this decision. Appeals should be delivered to the following address: Office of the Special Master, c/o Claims Resolution Tribunal, P.O. Box 9564, 8036 Zurich, Switzerland.

The Claimant should send appeals in writing to the above address and should include all reasons for the appeal. If more than one account has been denied in this Certified Denial, the Claimant should identify the Account Identification Number that forms the basis of the appeal. Appeals submitted without either a plausible suggestion of error or relevant new evidence may be summarily denied.

Scope of the Denial

The Claimant should be aware that the CRT will carry out further research on his claim to determine whether an award may be made based upon the information provided by the Claimant or upon information from other sources.

Certification of the Denial

The CRT certifies this Denial for approval by the Court.

Claims Resolution Tribunal
29 June 2004